

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

104th Congress
1st Session

Vote No. 496

October 24, 1995, 11:47 a.m.
Page S-15535 Temp. Record

JERUSALEM EMBASSY/Final Passage

SUBJECT: Jerusalem Embassy Relocation Implementation Act of 1995 . . . S. 1322. Final passage, as amended.

ACTION: BILL PASSED, 93-5

SYNOPSIS: As passed, S. 1322, the Jerusalem Embassy Relocation Implementation Act of 1995, will make it the United States' policy to relocate the United States Embassy in Tel Aviv, Israel, to Jerusalem by May 31, 1999. Details are provided below.

Policy:

- Jerusalem should remain an undivided city in which the rights of every ethnic and religious group are protected;
- Jerusalem should be recognized as the capital of Israel; and
- the United States Embassy in Israel should be established in Jerusalem no later than May 31, 1999.

Funding:

• at least \$25 million of the amount made available to the State Department for the acquisition and repair of buildings abroad in fiscal year 1996, and at least \$75 million of the amount made available to the State Department for the acquisition and repair of buildings abroad in fiscal year 1997, will be reserved for construction and other costs associated with building an embassy in Jerusalem; and

• no more than 50 percent of the total amount made available in fiscal year 1999 to the State Department for the acquisition and repair of buildings abroad will be obligated until the Secretary of State reports that the United States Embassy in Jerusalem has officially opened; the President will be able to waive this limitation if in the national security interests of the United States for a period of 6 months; successive 6-month waivers will also be allowed.

Reports:

- an initial implementation report and semiannual progress reports will be required.

Those favoring final passage contended:

(See other side)

YEAS (93)				NAYS (5)		NOT VOTING (1)	
Republican (49 or 92%)		Democrats (44 or 98%)		Republicans (4 or 8%)	Democrats (1 or 2%)	Republicans (0)	Democrats (1)
Ashcroft	Hutchison	Akaka	Johnston	Abraham	Byrd		Bradley ⁻²
Bennett	Inhofe	Baucus	Kennedy	Chafee			
Bond	Kassebaum	Biden	Kerrey	Hatfield			
Brown	Kempthorne	Bingaman	Kerry	Jeffords			
Burns	Kyl	Boxer	Kohl				
Campbell	Lott	Breaux	Lautenberg				
Coats	Lugar	Bryan	Leahy				
Cochran	Mack	Bumpers	Levin				
Cohen	McCain	Conrad	Lieberman				
Coverdell	McConnell	Daschle	Mikulski				
Craig	Murkowski	Dodd	Moseley-Braun				
D'Amato	Nickles	Dorgan	Moynihan				
DeWine	Pressler	Exon	Murray				
Dole	Roth	Feingold	Nunn				
Domenici	Santorum	Feinstein	Pell				
Faircloth	Shelby	Ford	Pryor				
Frist	Simpson	Glenn	Reid				
Gorton	Smith	Graham	Robb				
Gramm	Snowe	Harkin	Rockefeller				
Grams	Specter	Heflin	Sarbanes				
Grassley	Stevens	Hollings	Simon				
Gregg	Thomas	Inouye	Wellstone				
Hatch	Thompson						
Helms	Thurmond						
	Warner						

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

- 1—Official Business
- 2—Necessarily Absent
- 3—Illness
- 4—Other

SYMBOLS:

- AY—Announced Yea
- AN—Announced Nay
- PY—Paired Yea
- PN—Paired Nay

We are delighted at the opportunity to vote to move the United States embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem on the 3,000 anniversary of King David entering into that holy city. For 47 years the United States and most of the rest of the international community have been living a lie, pretending that Jerusalem is not Israel's capital. The status of Jerusalem has supposedly been unresolved; first, the city was divided between Israel and Jordan, then, after Jordan attacked Israel in the 6 Day War, Israel took over the whole city. We are pleased that Israel controls the entire city. Jerusalem should remain undivided as Israeli territory. Israel is a staunch, democratic ally that respects and protects the rights of all faiths. Further, Jerusalem is the center of Israel by every measure: culturally, economically, and politically. For Jews, who comprise most of the population of Israel, this city has also been the center of their faith for thousands of years.

The United States has been generous in giving Israel aid over the years, but it has not always been as strong in publicly supporting this loyal ally. For years this country was totally surrounded by hostile Arab countries that did not recognize its right to exist. Much of the hostility toward Israel was fanned by the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union, and Third World nations, often attacked Israel in the United Nations. The situation has greatly changed in recent years, though. The peace process has been moving steadily forward, and the Soviet Union no longer exists. It appears likely that there may even soon be lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organization.

Under these circumstances, the United States should end the charade. Negotiations will be helped, not hurt, if it makes absolutely clear that it will not support dividing Jerusalem or in any other way infringing on Israel's sovereignty over the city. No one should be under the illusion that any solution other than having an undivided Jerusalem as Israel's capital will be acceptable to the United States. Moving the United States embassy at this time will send this message to the world. We are therefore pleased to vote in favor of final passage.

Those opposing final passage contended:

The Senate is making a terrible mistake in passing this bill. A very vocal segment of the United States population has lobbied hard for its passage, and most Members will not vote against the wishes of this segment. In this case, they should. Jerusalem is a holy city for three of the major religions in the world. The wars, occupations, and divisions that Jerusalem has suffered over the millennia attest to the fact that there is no mixture in the world that is more volatile than religion and politics. In modern times, both Arab states and Israel lay claim to this city. Arab states, in fact, have not only denied Israel's claim to Jerusalem, they have even denied its right to exist. Peace may be at hand, however. All sides have agreed to negotiate on the final status of Jerusalem by May, 1999. The United States should act as an arbiter in those negotiations. If we pass this bill which essentially declares that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel, there will not be much point in the Arabs coming to the negotiating table. This bill will thus undermine the peace process, and should accordingly be rejected.